

**34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2012 @ Hall at Fautleroy**

7:04pm – Meeting called to order by **Tim Nuse**, Chair of the 34<sup>th</sup>. **Zack Barker** led the flag salute.

7:05pm –The agenda and the November meeting minutes were moved and seconded, and approved unanimously.

7:06pm – *Chair's Report*: Tim made a call to arms to get our friends, family, and neighbors engaged in the 2012 election. We need to re-elect President Obama, Senator Cantwell, Representative McDermott and many more good Democrats, and elect Jay Inslee as our Governor. Mark your calendars: Precinct caucuses are April 15. In 2008 we had 10,700 people show up for the caucuses, and we plan on getting a good turnout this year! The District Caucus is April 28, and the County Convention is next day, April 29. The Congressional Caucus is May 20, and the State Convention starts June 1 in Seattle. We need to stand up for the 99% and focus on our values.

Congressman **Jim McDermott** is hosting an event on January 30 at Beveridge Place Pub. Cost is \$50 unless you bring two cans of food for the Food Bank, at which point tickets drop to \$35.

Several days ago there was a house fire at the home of the director of the Furry Faces Foundation, which helps low income families care for their pets. The hat was passed to collect donations.

7:14pm – *Vice Chair's Report*: **Sabra Schneider** recognized Tamsen Spangler for bringing two new faces to the 34<sup>th</sup> Democrats: **Sopha Danh** of the Cambodian Cultural Alliance of Washington, and **Pharin Thaug**. We also welcomed two other new members, one from Arbor Heights and one from Burien.

7:17pm – *On the Spot Recognition*:  
**Mike Heavey** was recognized for his work as Hospitality Chair.

7:18 – **Timothy Anderson**, State Director of the Coordinated Campaign

Timothy started his presentation by noting that of all the legislative districts he has spoken to around the state the 34<sup>th</sup> has by far the largest meeting turnout. Elections are about community, and about not only winning the race for our candidate but contributing something lasting for the cause. Organizing, outreach, and building a strong base are vitally important for Democrats. Timothy gave inspiring examples of how an effective field campaign has made a big difference in Democratic races in Nebraska, Missouri, and Washington. He has been working here since April and has been reaching out to registered Democrats across the state.

The goals of the coordinated campaign are simple: win elections for Democrats by turning out people who vote for Democratic candidates. Timothy wants this goal to be compatible with the goals of local organizations such as the 34<sup>th</sup>. The team-based model empowers people on the ground to take ownership of the campaign. The campaign is big on training, in order for people to learn how to lead a canvass or phone bank, recruit volunteers, enter data, and a whole host of other activities. The plan for the year is still taking shape, but the coordinated campaign will be heavily involved in the Obama,

Cantwell, and Inslee campaigns. April will be a key kickoff with activity heating up in June so stay tuned for opportunities to get engaged.

Tim Nuse followed up the discussion by articulating the immense accomplishments of the Obama Administration over the last four years. He reiterated the importance of the precinct caucuses to find the next leaders of this district. We need to continue to build the leadership and political savvy of this district and we are up to the challenge.

7:56 – **Brian Bennett**, member of the 34<sup>th</sup> and new mayor of Burien

Brian spoke briefly on the issue of King County libraries in Boulevard Park and White Center, which are threatened with closure. These are very important resources to the communities and especially the youth, and the Library Board needs to hear from people that closing them would be a significant impact. Brian looks forward to coming back to the 34<sup>th</sup> and sharing Burien's upcoming priorities.

8:01 – **Josh Friedes**, Director of Marriage Equality, Equal Rights Washington

Josh is convinced that 2012 is the year that we are going to get marriage equality in Washington! We have 60 days to get the bill passed in the legislature – we currently have the votes in the House, and are working to get the votes in the Senate. Governor Gregoire has already said she will sign a marriage equality bill, and in the last two days two Republican Senators have thrown their support behind it. Phone banks are occurring Mon-Thurs and on the weekends. Washington United for Marriage is the coalition working on the bill – be sure to “like” it on Facebook for regular updates. Those of us who live in progressive districts need to understand how hard a lift this will be across the state. Marriage equality excites younger voters as an important civil rights issue. We win when we tell our personal stories about why marriage matters, whether we are gay, lesbian, or straight. February 16 is Marriage Equality Day, and support for marriage equality is a Washington value. Join us!

King County Councilmember **Joe McDermott** made a motion to endorse and join the Washington United for Marriage coalition. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

8:18pm – *Redistricting Review*: Chair Tim showed maps of the new Congressional Districts. The new 1<sup>st</sup> District stretches from northwestern King County up to the Canadian border, with the exception of a small strip along Puget Sound and the San Juans which is District 2. Our Congressional District 7 remains largely intact, growing a bit to the north, but still including all of the 34<sup>th</sup> LD. Other districts have also been redrawn, and a new 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District has been created in Thurston and Pierce Counties and includes Olympia. Denny Heck is running for this seat.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District is still bounded to the north by Alki Beach and includes all of West Seattle. Highline, White Center, and a large amount of Burien are also in the 34<sup>th</sup>, with the eastern boundary of Hwy 509 continuing south further than before. The Chair of the 11<sup>th</sup> District Democrats has now been redistricted into the 34<sup>th</sup>. We need to reach out to members and PCOs coming over from the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 33<sup>rd</sup> to keep those people engaged and active.

8:31pm – *New Business*:

**Tim Nuse** introduced a resolution in support of I-502, the regulation and taxing of marijuana. Several members spoke in favor. The resolution passed on a voice vote.

**Les Treall** announced that we need a new coordinator to organize district volunteers at the White Center Food Bank on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. By providing volunteers on this day on an ongoing basis, the Food Bank has been able to keep the doors open for their clients. If you are

interested in volunteering, please contact Les or Tim. Big thanks to outgoing volunteer coordinator **Beth Grieser** who has served in this position for the last four years!

8:37pm – *Good of the Order:*

**Marvin Rosette**, Vice Chair of the 11<sup>th</sup> LD informed members that 3 members of the 11<sup>th</sup> LD Executive Board are now members of the 34<sup>th</sup> due to redistricting, so we should be ready to welcome them into our midst. The third week of April is the Cambodian New Year and folks in the 34<sup>th</sup> are invited by members of the Cambodian Cultural Alliance of Washington to participate. Contact **Sopha Danh** of the Cambodian Cultural Alliance of Washington or **Tamsen Spengler** of the Diversity Committee for more information. Other timely items of interest were announced by the membership.

8:52pm – There being no further business to pursue, Chair motioned to adjourn for the evening.

Submitted by,

LeeAnne Beres, Secretary